

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-73 (Canceled)

74. (Currently amended) A spray nozzle for a mouth rinse, the spray nozzle comprising:

a nozzle member;

a nozzle attachment couple to the nozzle member to define an axially extending chamber;

a liquid duct configured to supply pressurized liquid to the chamber;

a pressure piece disposed within the chamber;

a whirl chamber connected to the chamber, the whirl chamber being configured to create a circulating flow of the liquid; and

a nozzle outlet formed in the nozzle attachment and extending centrally from the whirl chamber and configured to discharge a cleaning jet; the nozzle outlet comprising a substantially cylindrical narrow passage;

wherein a first end of the pressure piece comprises a cup-shaped portion having grooves extending from the chamber to openings;

wherein a second end of the pressure piece, opposite the first end, comprises a second cup-shaped portion including an interior space in fluid communication with the liquid duct as well as with the chamber;

wherein the interior space of the second end of the pressure piece communicates with the chamber through at least one opening which is constructed as an axial slit; and

wherein a plurality of axial slits along the second end of the pressure piece define a plurality of spring arms to axially and resiliently secure the pressure piece in the chamber.

75-82 (Canceled)

83. (New) The spray nozzle of claim 74, wherein the nozzle outlet is sized and configured such that a velocity of the cleaning jet is at least about 23 m/s.

84. (New) The spray nozzle of claim 74, wherein the nozzle outlet is sized and configured such that the cleaning jet is a diverging hollow cone jet.

85. (New) The spray nozzle of claim 74, wherein the liquid duct is sized and configured to supply pressurized liquid to the chamber at a pressure of at least about 15 bar.

86. (New) The spray nozzle of claim 74, wherein the liquid duct is sized and configured to supply pressurized liquid to the chamber at a pressure between about 25 bar and about 55 bar.

87. (New) The spray nozzle of claim 74, wherein the liquid duct is sized and configured to supply pressurized liquid to the chamber at a pressure between about 35 bar and about 45 bar.

88. (New) The spray nozzle of claim 74, further comprising openings extending into the whirl chamber along a substantially transverse direction and with a center offset relative to the longitudinal axis of the whirl chamber, such that the cleaning jet exiting from the openings impacts an opposite wall of the whirl chamber at an angle not exceeding about 45°.